JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **HB950**

TITLE: Maryland Transit Administration – Locally Operated Transit Systems – Mandatory Funding

SPONSOR: Delegate Edelson

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations

DATE: February 27, 2024

Baltimore County provides this Letter of Information to the House Appropriations Committee on **HB 950 - Maryland Transit Administration – Locally Operated Transit Systems – Mandatory Funding.**

Baltimore County supports funding reliability within MTA's Locally Operated Transit System program, and other programs within the Department of Transportation. Funding reliability is critical for local jurisdictions to enable long-term planning, development, operations and maintenance of our roadways, transit services, and other transportation needs. However, while HB950 establishes a funding figure, it does nothing to address the long-standing problem with the way LOTS funding has traditionally been allocated.

Baltimore County has grown substantially over the past several decades. We are currently the third most populous county in Maryland, home to nearly 850,000 residents and 14 percent of Maryland's total population. Unfortunately, Baltimore County's efforts to provide quality, connected local transit has been continuously thwarted by an opaque LOTS funding formula that appears to heavily favor existing transit systems and build upon previous awards. This approach ignores where growth has occurred and where the State has an opportunity to increase transit ridership, and it must be reevaluated to consider population and ridership growth potential.

As such, Baltimore County requests that the General Assembly require MDOT reevaluate their approach to funding local transportation to better serve growing populations and increase transit ridership. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs, at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.